

# MISOURIAN

Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, Mo. 64468

June 11, 1976

## Former athlete to MSU assistant

Richard Buckridge, director of admissions, will assume his new position as assistant to the president July 1. He fills the shoes of retiring Everett Brown, who has provided years of service to the University.

This promotion represents the fruit of nearly three decades of service to the college and community from Buckridge.

Buckridge, a Maryville High School graduate, attended MSU the next four years after his graduation. While obtaining his bachelor of science degree, he emerged as one of the best athletes in MSU history.

He still holds the rank of 4th place in all-time Bearcat scoring records. He also was awarded the Missouri Inter-collegiate Athletic Association's basketball sportsmanship award.

After graduation Buckridge served two years of duty with the United States Marine Corps. During his short service period, he reached the rank of first lieutenant.



Richard Buckridge

Following his discharge from service, he returned back to Maryville to teach at the high school. After three years of teaching at MHS, he received his Master of Arts from the University of Wyoming.

Before returning to MSU in 1963, this time as an instructor, Buckridge taught five years at William Chrisman High School at Independence.

When he joined the MSU staff, he took over the position of head basketball coach. During his 16 years of basketball coaching, including his years at the secondary level, he compiled an impressive .728 winning percentage.

Buckridge stepped down from his life vocation, basketball, in 1971 to become the director of admissions. When he assumes his new position of assistant to the president next month, he will have risen from a former student to the second position in the University.

Buckridge and his wife, the former Mardy Ingels, have two children. Their daughter Cindy is an MSU senior while their son Dave will be a senior at MHS this fall.

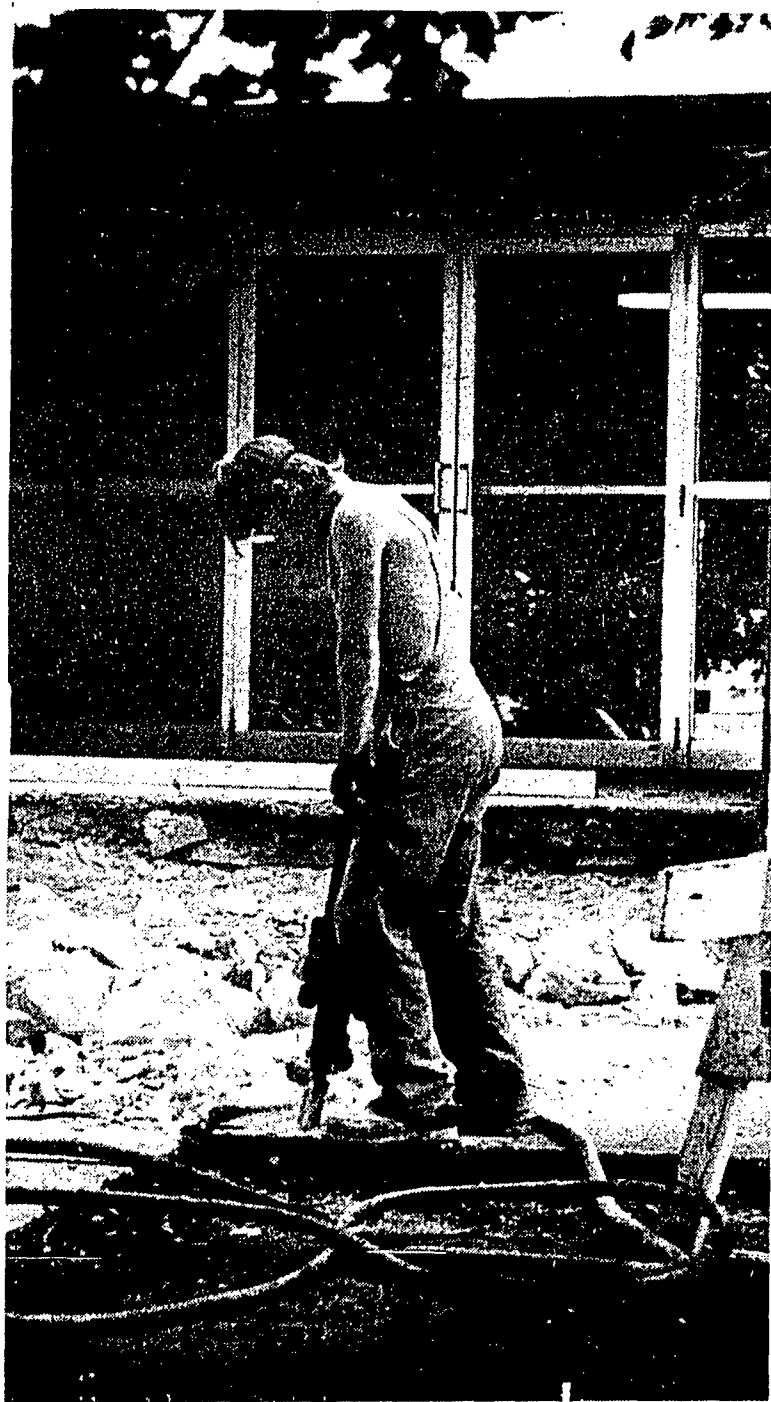


photo by Dwight Tompkins

A portion of the money appropriated to MSU for capital improvements will be used to renovate the Administration Building.

## \$183,000 appropriated for improvements

Gov. Christopher Bond has signed the Missouri 1976-77 capital improvements budget. The budget's effect aimed at MSU include an appropriation of \$183,000 for general campus physical improvements and \$560,000 for phase 2 of the renovation and remodeling of the Administration Building.

Among items scheduled to be funded by the physical improvements allocation is an all-weather track in Rickenbrode Stadium. Bids for this project are to be opened June 11, and if all goes as planned, the track will be ready for use during the outdoor season of 1977. Involved in the restoration of the stadium will be the installation of a four-inch asphalt base and a resilient one-inch topping of synthetic asphalt. Approaches to the pole vault, long jump and high jump areas will receive the same treatment.

Other projects to be funded by the general physical improvements budget include an upgrading of utility systems—steam lines, lighting, cooling and ventilation systems, parking lot improvements and roof repairs around the campus.

Under phase 2, remodeling and renovation of speech and theater department areas on the third and fourth floors is planned. In addition, the University's speech and hearing clinic, now located in the Horace Mann Learning Center, will be moved to the Administration Building to bring the centralization of this academic department.

The \$560,000 phase 2 appropriation for the Ad Building will allow the continuation of remodeling to the 65-year-old building begun this summer.

A third phase is planned later.

MSU has already announced the acceptance of bids totaling \$365,975 for work on phase one of

remodeling the University's more than 65-year-old Administration Building.

Dr. Don Petry, executive vice president, said Lawhon Construction Company of St. Joseph was the low and successful general contract bidder with \$271,060.

Concerning the mechanical portion of the project, Industrial Heating and Plumbing of St. Joseph was awarded the contract on the basis of its bid of \$61,915. Bartlow-Hope Electrical company of St. Joseph was the successful electrical bidder with \$33,000.

Added to the three bids is a total of \$40,201 for agriculture department audio-visual equipment, home economics department carpeting, mechanical evaluation and architectural fees to bring the total expected expenditures to \$406,176.

Major projects called for in phase one include: removal of existing air handling equipment from basement, replacement of storm windows and screens on first floor, replacement of doors and steps on east and west entrances, new climate control and lighting systems for the data processing center, roof repairs, a new entry for handicapped persons, calking of all windows and carpeting the Home Economics department.

The Department of Agriculture will be a new agricultural lecture-audiovisual room; the soils laboratory will be remodeled and there will be extensive remodeling of agriculture department offices and the entrance to the agriculture classroom area. The second floor auditorium windows and blinds will also be replaced. A passenger-freight elevator serving the basement and four floors of the building will be installed.

# Students win seats with Regents

(CPS) Some people say the protest of the sixties gave way to the apathy of the seventies and cite the mood on campus as the perfect example. Although some colleges can muster enough students together for a convincing show of force on tuition increases, few schools are hotbeds of action for more student power.

Student power, it seems, has been lost to the scramble for jobs.

## At least 20 states had student members

But working within the bureaucracy for more student influence over the university administration, many students have won places for themselves on the school's governing boards. And statistics indicate that the impetus to provide a chair for students at the regents' round table is increasing.

At last count in 1974, at least 20 states had student members on their governing boards at public colleges and universities. About seven of those states allowed their student members to have full voting power. About seven others allowed their

students to participate in the decision-making process only until it was time to vote. The remaining states permitted student representatives to serve on committees but not to attend full-scale governance meetings.

But the struggle for more student representation on these boards continues in earnest. A bill now before the West Virginia state legislature creates a non-voting seat on the state's Board of Regents for a student to be appointed by the governor. Although members of the West Virginia legislature thought they were acting progressively by putting a student in an advisory capacity to the regents, many students believe it only goes half-way.

"The Board of Regents is afraid students and faculty would take over if they receive voting rights," said one West Virginia student body president. "This is un-

## Without the vote; the bill is a waste of paper

founded. Without the vote," he added, "the bill is a waste of paper."

Since the 1972 "sense of Congress" resolution which was passed at the same time as the Higher Education Act, more states have been considering the idea of

## Students are usually too immature

putting students to work at governance. Congress had indicated that the governing boards of public institutions should reassess their representation of students and many states even went so far as to mandate student participation in governance.

But seating those students on boards and giving them full voting powers has been a slow process. Many university administrators believe that students represent a special interest group and would be incapable of voting on crucial issues as representatives of society's best interests. Furthermore, critics of student representatives say students aren't around long enough to become effective members who can view the university's problems in the long run.

"A student is transient, usually immature and not too knowledgeable," said

one opponent of students having votes on governing boards.

Finally there is no point in trying to appoint a true representative of students because students are such a diverse group.

But advocates of student regents argue that the decisions of the governing boards significantly affect the students at the school. Adding the student voice to regent's discussions would provide regents with a better idea of how students will react to their decisions.

Where students have failed to seat one of their own representatives on their college's governing board, other tactics to keep the regents responsive to students

## Regents are unsympathetic to student needs

have been tried. Several students at the University of Nebraska have initiated a campaign to drum out four members of that school's Board of Regents. The leader of the group complained that regents were just not concerned or sympathetic to the needs of the students after the board rejected revisions of visitation and alcohol policies for on-campus housing.

# Budget increase for MSU

MSU will receive \$700,000 more than last year in state funds Dr. Don Petry, University executive vice president, announced recently.

An appropriation bill, which Gov. Christopher S. Bond has signed, allotted the University \$7,195,071. This sum is \$400,000 more than what Gov. Bond had earlier recommended.

MSU had requested \$7,772,748. The lower appropriated sum is a compromise between the House and Senate. The House recommended \$6.9 million, while the Senate recommended \$7.3 million.

Petry cited the recent economic upturn and a

personal lobbying effort by the Board of Regents and himself as decisive factors in the increased appropriation.

The increased budget, which Petry calls modest, will allow the University to meet inflation in utilities and communications expenses. A cost-of-living raise will also be given to the University staff.

The total University budget for the fiscal 1978 year will be presented to the Regents at their June meeting.

The budget is expected to be around \$9,335,000 compared to last year's \$8,846,000

# Summer registration up 20-30 students

According to Dr. Robert Bush, Dean of Admission, summer registration is up by an estimated 20-30 people from last year, based on a registration day head count.

There are 876 undergraduates and 711 graduates enrolled at present. By the time everything is processed, the two categories should be about equal, said Bush. The main increase came

in first-time freshman and graduate student enrollments; the numbers of seniors, juniors, and sophomores enrolling either held steady or decreased slightly.

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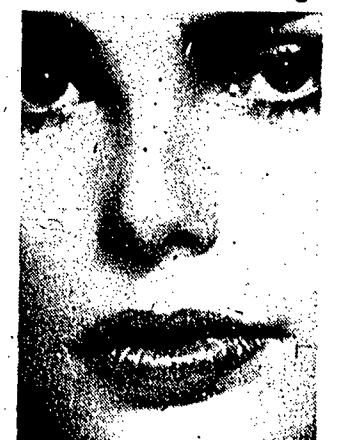
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## Community involvement stressed by A.B.E.L.

by Beth Dalbey

Developmentally disabled citizens in Nodaway County will have an opportunity to learn basic living skills when the Area I Regional Council on Developmental Disabilities launches its Project A.B.E.L. (Adult Basic Education in Living) June 15.

The project strives for community involvement, public education and public awareness (attitudinal change), according to Joan Winger, community resource coordinator for the Area I Council.

"It's an opportunity to give of yourself and your time," Winger said, "but it certainly isn't one-sided because there is something very special about developmentally disabled people."

Waving her hands freely as she spoke, Winger added, "They make you stop and look at what life is all about. The stop and enjoy even the simplest things."

Any interested responsible adults may volunteer to assist with Project A.B.E.L. so that developmentally disabled adults may reach their full potential and lead as normal and as independent a life as possible, the 1973 MSU graduate said.

Winger stressed that prior training in special education is not necessary and that the only qualifications needed are responsibility, patience and understanding.

The project will provide instruction in hygiene, grooming, cooking, laundering, money exchange and other skills necessary for independent living.

Winger said that the Area I Council recognized the need for a program because many developmentally disabled citizens did not go to state schools where such skills are taught.

Ultimately, Winger hopes the community will take over the responsibility of the program.

Orientation for Project A.B.E.L. will take place from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 15, at the Nodaway County Sheltered Workshop, South Newton Street Maryville.

## BEAR FACTS

The recreation program for developmentally disabled citizens will be held from 7-9 p.m. June 11 and 25, July 9 and 23 and August 13 and 27, at the Margaret Davison Housing Complex. From 8 to 9 p.m., the newly initiated swimming program will be held June 18, July 2 and 16, and August 6 and 20 at the Martindale pool, MSU. Interested volunteers should contact Gre Johnston, at 582-4271.

The J.W. Jones Student Union will sponsor a bus trip to Kansas City for a two-night doubleheader between the Royals and defending American League champions Boston Red Sox on Thursday, July 15. The cost will be \$7 for transportation and a seat at the Royals Stadium. The departure time is unknown as of yet.



photo by Dwight Tompkins

Joan Winger, left discusses Project A.B.E.L., a program that will teach adult basic education skills in living to developmentally disabled citizens.

## Acting provost appointed

The MSU Board of Regents recently promoted Dr. John Mees to acting provost. He will assume his new position July 1.

Dr. Mees, now assistant provost, will replace Dr. Charles Thate, whom the Board chose not to rehire.

The provost has charge over academic programs and reports directly to the president.

Dr. Mees, who has been at the University since 1971, holds a doctoral degree from Indiana University.

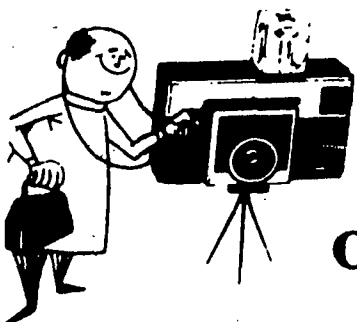
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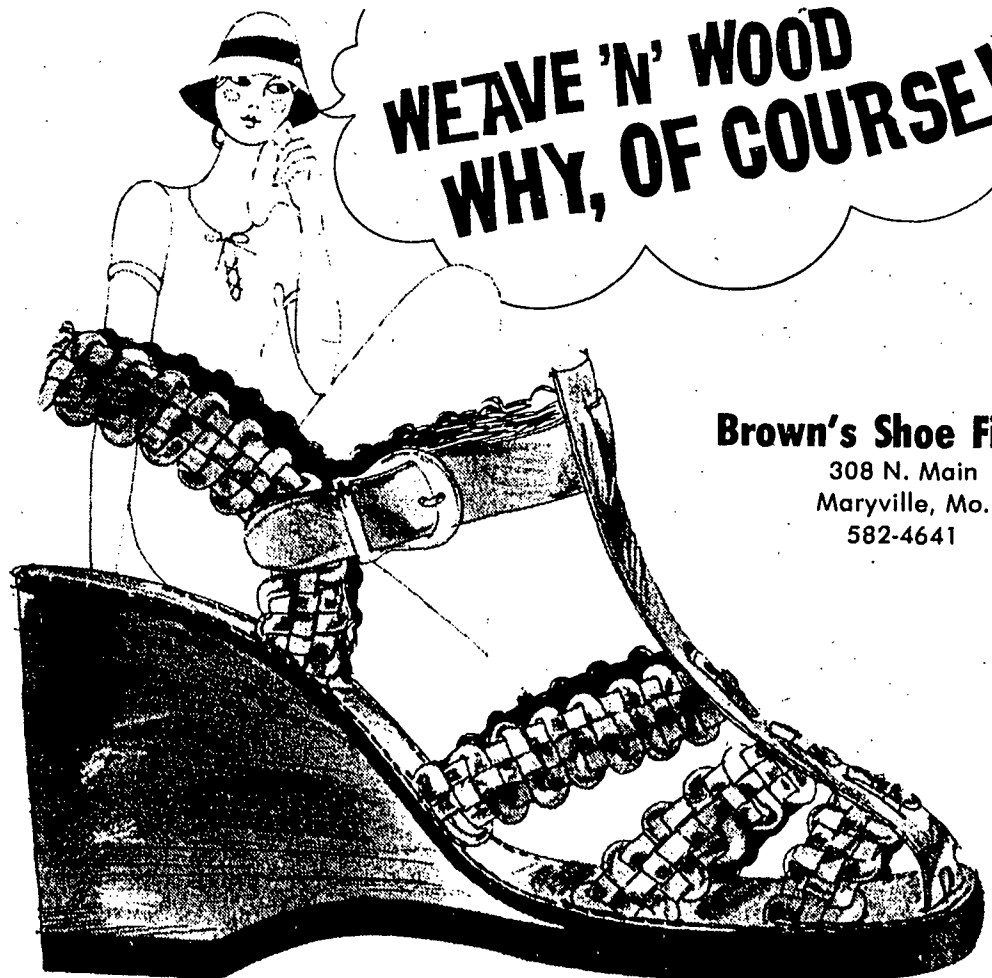
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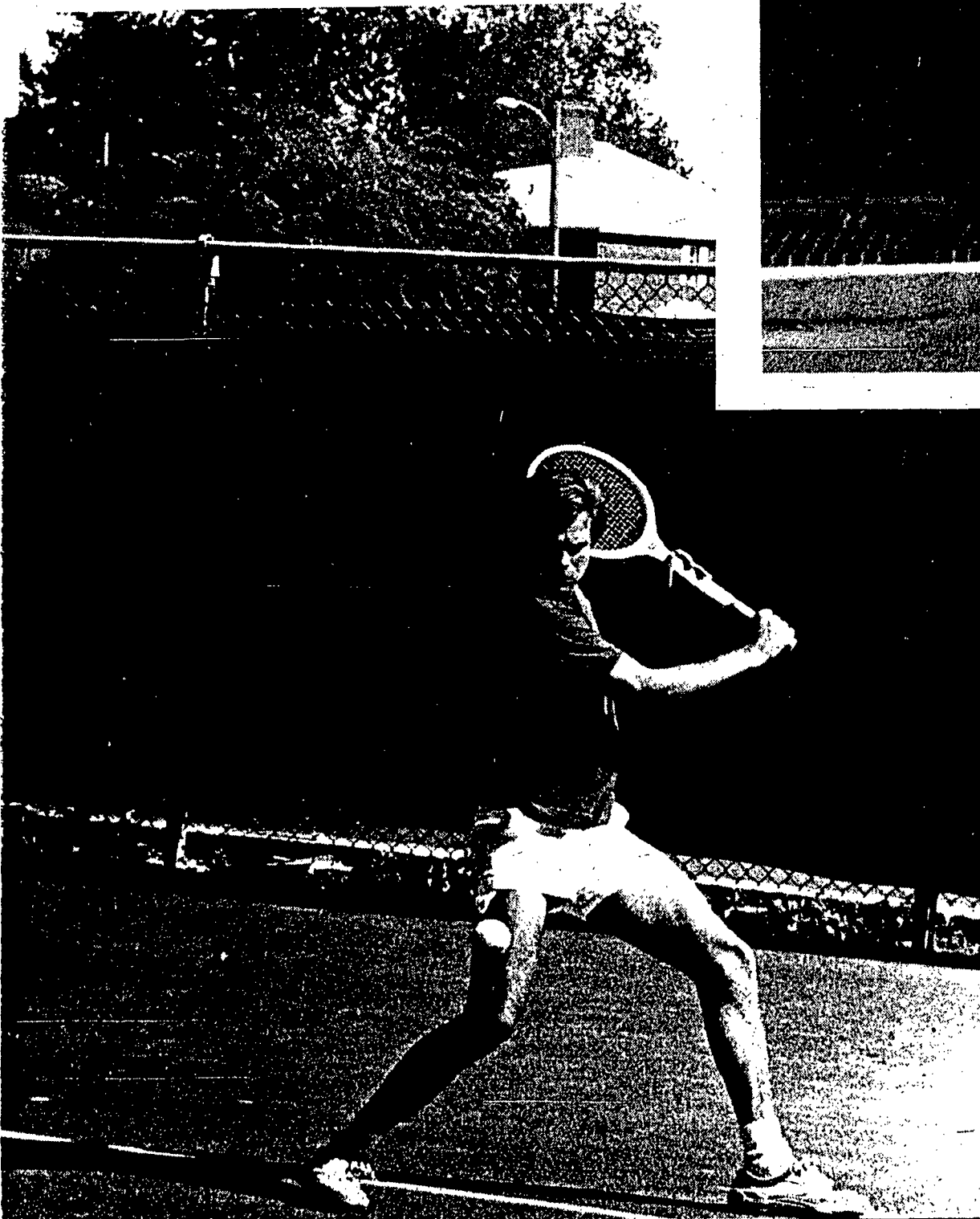
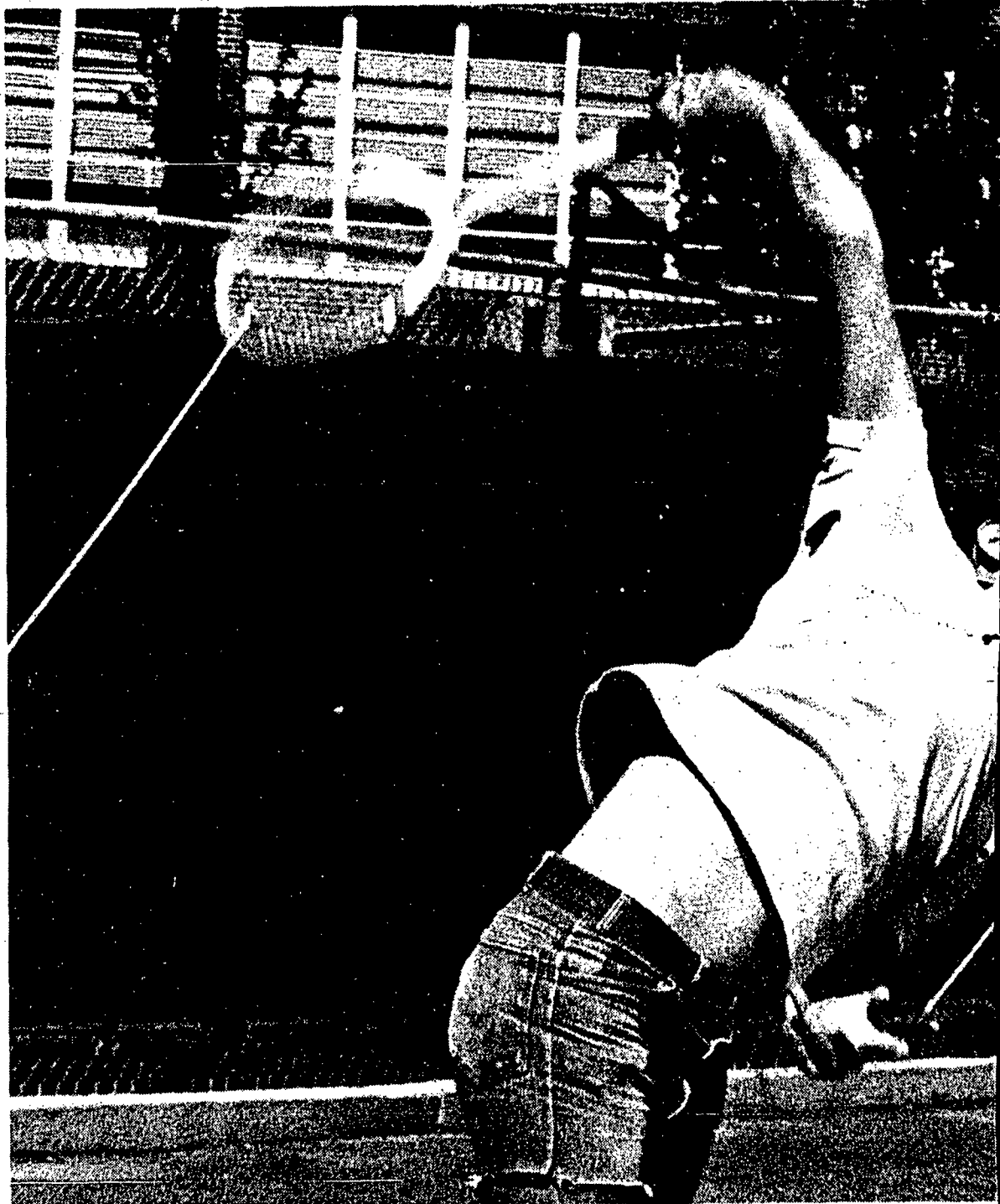
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**connie**

photos by Mic Jones;

text by Mark Sheehan;



When the NCAA Division II first held their national tennis championship 14 years ago there was perhaps no more than a few people in Maryville who knew how to tally the score.

However, today, even as tennis' popularity continues to grow, such tennis greats as Jimmy Connors, Billie Jean King and John Newcombe are as well known as Pete Rose, Jo Jo White or Ken Stabler. Certainly a clear indication of the wide-spread popularity of tennis was the NCAA Division II officials' decision to hold its fourteenth annual championship here in this seemingly hidden niche of the Midwest. Perhaps, now, the only missing sign of the sports' public acceptance is bubble-gum trading cards.

The tourney, which was held May 19-23, saw fourth seeded Hampton Institute of Virginia topple the favored California-Irvine team to become only the second non-California team in division history to garner the championship outright. Hampton's Roger de Santis Guede's excellent play made the upset possible. In singles, de Santis Guede narrowly lost in the finals to top seeded Tim Monroe, California-Davis, 6-4, 1-

6, 7-6, 6-4. worth, a St. Russ Watts champions cleared the seeded tea being elim The MS the Divisio top ten ran Philgren c bowing to Philgren-K doubles pl Chatanogg MSU's Narakka, Norm Riek being elimi 2. Points re



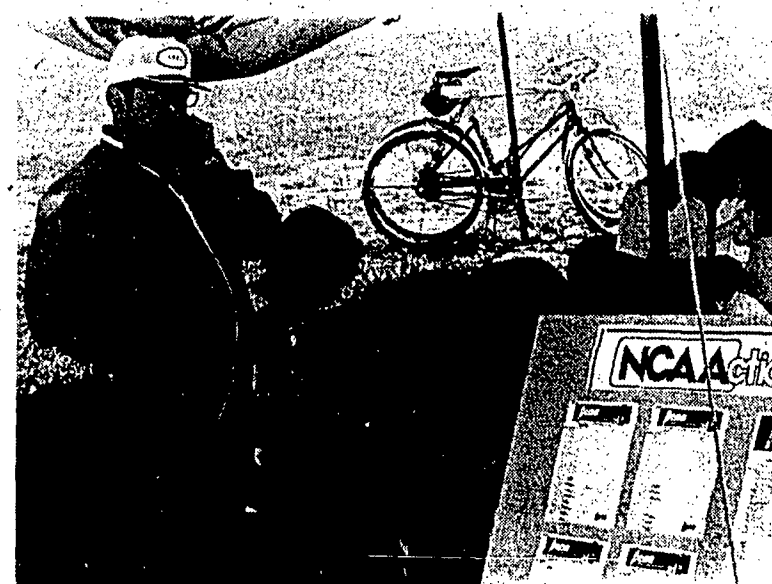


Division II tennis

championships;

May 19-23;

MSU



antis Guede then teamed with Bruce Fox-  
s sophomore, to defeat the San Diego team of  
Simpson, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, 6-3, for the doubles  
Hampton's Silva-Young team had earlier  
for their teammates by defeating the top  
Wright-Williams, California-Irvine, before  
d by the Watts-Simpson team.  
am placed Bjorn Philgren and Arif Kocak on  
All American team as the squad achieved a  
for the sixth consecutive season. In singles,  
ed MSU's hopes to the fourth round before  
ornia-Irvine's Robert Wright, 6-4, 6-2. The  
team advanced to the quarter final round of  
before falling to the powerful Tennessee-  
m of Ismail-Castorri, 6-4, 6-2.  
er doubles team also fared well as Jukka  
time MIAA singles champion, teamed with  
advanced to the third round of play before  
d the top seeded Wright-Williams team, 6-3, 6-  
d by both doubles team and Philgren's singles

play secured an honored station among the Division's top ten.

Joining MSU in the top ten were (listed according to rank):  
Hampton Institute of Virginia, 23 pts.; California-Irvine, 18;  
Tennessee-Chattanooga, 17; Florida International, 14;  
Southern Illinois-Edwardsville, 12; California-Davis, 12; San  
Diego, 11; MSU, 9; Northwestern State, La., 6.

At one time tennis players were thought of as either rich,  
pansy white-kids in rumpled white socks or dark-skinned,  
unintelligible foreigners who played tennis rather than a he-  
man sport like football because they were either too weak or  
too afraid they might get one of their shiny, white teeth  
knocked out of its perfect row.

But today, as professional tennis begins to compete with  
baseball for the Sunday television audience, the tennis player  
has obtained new respect, as professional tennis expands the  
opportunities for the participants of the recent championship  
grow. Maybe one of the 121 athletes that came here to  
represent 28 schools from 16 states may become the next  
Arthur Ashe. Maybe he will have played for MSU.

# Sharing the good life

Each Thursday evening on a 220-acre ranch here in Maryville, a family of 12 sits down to a farm-style meal. Seated around the table are Dr. and Mrs. E.L. Whitmore, five MSU students and five lower elementary school age students.

It is not a family in the traditional sense of the word, but a family created by Whitmore out of a desire "to share the good life," as he puts it.

Whitmore, associate professor of psychology at MSU calls his group "Country Cousins," and the primary beneficiaries of the weekly association on his farm are the five youngsters who range from first graders to fourth graders. The Country Cousin idea began last February with the first meeting of the "family" on a Thursday afternoon on Whitmore's ranch outside of Pickering.

terest, capacity for personal development and caring relationship before being finally selected.

The five MSU students and the five elementary students are paired on a one-to-one basis with the central theme for the youngsters being a caring relationship. This relationship gives the children the special attention of an adult, and Whitmore says this attention in the beautiful country setting of the ranch is conducive to achieving positive results in modifying behavior patterns and creating healthy attitudes toward life.

Serving as a sounding board in getting the project underway were representatives from such organizations as the Office of Family Services, Maryville R-II Vocational and Technical School, Eugene Field Elementary School, MSU Horace Mann School and MSU



photo by Heywood Studio

## Country Cousins

Sharing in a one-to-one relationship helps not only the younger students, but benefits the older students as well.

... the central theme for the youngsters is a caring relationship.

What is involved is an attempt to give the five young children some of the tangible and intangible benefits of a wholesome family life. Screening or selecting the five children to participate is accomplished by officials at Maryville R-II school district. Involved from the Maryville school are Kayan Ball, Cindy Bennett, Victor Freiderhauser, Steve Gervais and Kevin Riley.

The University students are Tim Gilroy, Carol Larson, Doug Bannon, Susan Thomas and Sue Erickson. Each is enrolled in a course of study involving the exceptional child, and each volunteered for the program.

The five students were selected from a much larger list of volunteers who wanted to be part of the new and totally voluntary program. They were screened and evaluated on character, dependability, in-

students and administrative officials. From all these sources and from his own knowledge, Whitmore is certain that if the younger children are to benefit, the experience must be one of continuity.

The program is divided into three one hour periods each Thursday afternoon. The first period is devoted to group activities. The second period is the one-to-one relationship between the University and elementary students. This period, Whitmore explains, is important in helping the younger children develop emotionally and develop a trusting relationship with a mature person. The third period centers around supper.

During the meal there are group discussions where the children are encouraged to express themselves. The meal also is an opportunity for the

children to develop sound manners, feelings for others and the benefits of a healthy

development of the child is strongest in an otherwise fragmenting society.

... an attempt to give ... some of the tangibles and intangible benefits of a wholesome family life.

discipline system.

Whitmore talks of this being one of his most satisfying experiences an experience he claims to be receiving benefits from. It is a year-round program centered on the family unit where the chance for sound

Tim Gilroy sums up the general feeling of the older students when he says, "It allows one to express himself in a way that is necessary for us to lead a better more fulfilling life. Giving one's self is the greatest gift."

Steven Gervais looks at the experience through first grader's eyes as he says, "Tim is good at fixing kites with broken sticks. We found a cow skull and saw some baby frogs. It's fun!"

## Mutz Oil Company

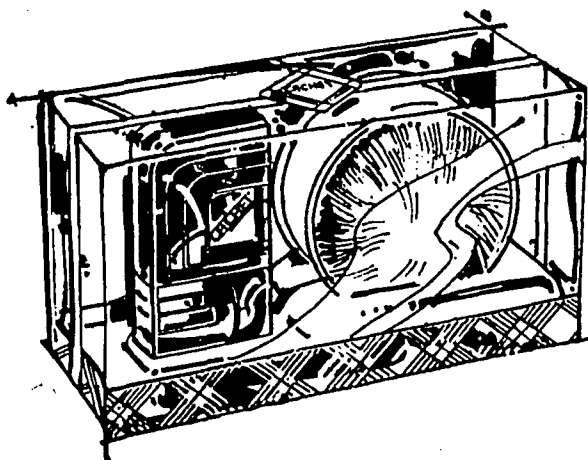
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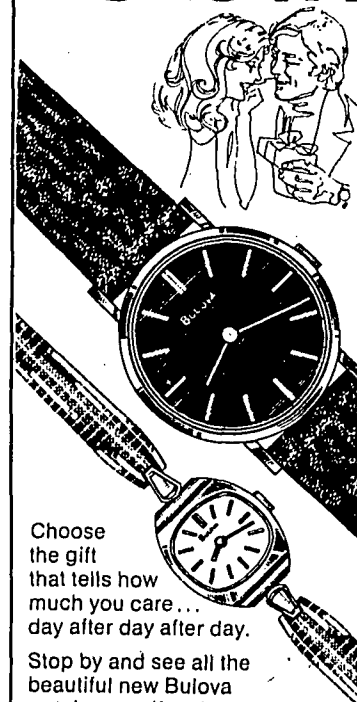
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Time & Gift

# Two students to MIAA All-Stars

A newcomer and a four-season veteran were MSU's first-team selections to the 1976 Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association All-Star baseball team, as picked by the conference's seven head coaches.

Kansas City freshman centerfielder Dennis Webb not only made the first team but was also accorded "Rookie of the Year" honors.

Webb batted .411, the first Bearcat ever to do that for a season and led the 'Cats in hits with 53, tied for the team lead in runs scored with 26 and topped the club in stolen bases with 17.

Senior Randy Blake nabbed the first team catcher's spot. Blake had his best plate year ever in '76 with a .333 average, 22 runs scored and 10 runs batted in.

Joining the two Bearcats on the first team were first basemen Tony Korado of SEMSU and Henry Mason of CMSU, second baseman Grant Dambach of Southeast and third baseman Terry Kasper of SEMSU. Joining as shortstop was Dan Wieser of Southeast, outfielders Mark Amick of Southeast and Bob Blakely of Southwest. Designated hitter was Skip Morgan of Southeast, utility player Pete Russell of NEMSU, and pitchers Bruce Berenyi of Northeast and Trae Hastings of Southeast.

Joe Uhls, coach of conference and Midwest Regional champion Southeast, earned coach of the year honors. Hastings was the loop's most valuable player.

Bearcats earning second team selection were senior second baseman Joe Pascuzzi, senior rightfielder Ron Jackson, senior designated hitter Bob Downs and junior pitcher Mark Miller. Junior first baseman Tim Thompson made the league's mention list.

# One MIAA title to MSU

MSU won only one Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association title and finished fifth in the all sports competition during the 1975-76 athletic campaign.

Northeast Missouri State's Bulldogs took the league's top honors with 30½ points in the competition where low score wins. The Bulldogs ended a string of three straight SEMSU all sports titles by collecting a pair of first place finishers, two seconds, three thirds, two fourths and one sixth place finish.

Southeast, which captured the most titles this year with three, tallied 34½ points to finish second. Southwest finished third, a half point behind

Southeast, and Central State took fourth. Lincoln and Missouri-Rolla finished sixth and seventh, respectively.

MSU won the MIAA's tennis title and the Bearcats collected third place showings in football and wrestling; fifths in baseball, cross country, indoor track and swimming and sixths in basketball, out-door track and golf.

League titles, in addition to the Bearcats' in tennis, went to Northeast in indoor track and golf, Southwest in cross country, Southeast in football, baseball and outdoor track, Lincoln in wrestling and Missouri-Rolla in swimming.

The final point totals: Northeast, 30½; Southeast, 34½;

# MSU's All-American Out of competition

John Wellerding, MSU's two-sport All-American, ended his athletic career on a sour note at last week's NCAA division II Track and Field Championships when an injured arch in his right foot forced Wellerding to drop out of the finals of the 5,000 meter run.

Wellerding had qualified for the finals with the fastest preliminary time—a 14:37.8, but following the race the foot began to bother him.

In the finals, Wellerding was able to run nearly two miles before the painful injury forced him to the sidelines. Dan Dwyer of SEMSU, won the finals with a 14:28.0.

"After all the work John has done, it was a very sad situation to see him forced out of the race with the injury," said head track coach Dick Flanagan. "It

was the first time John had to drop out of a race, and it happened to be the most important race of his career."

There were some better moments for MSU at the NCAA meet held at Slippery Rock, Pa.

Oak Grove sophomore Vernon Darling ran a 9:22.8 in the steeplechase to finish eight. Darling's time was some 29 seconds off his school record but for his eighth place finish, Darling was named an All-American.

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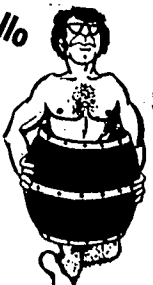
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# A novel for rabbits only?

By Larry Anderson

Who, in the name of Frith, would want to write a book about rabbits? (rabbits??) For that matter, who would want to read a book about—rabbits?

Richard Adams wrote the book. It's title is *Watership Down*. Millions (people, not rabbits) have read it and we have even been duly warned that there will be a "major motion picture" made from the novel.

Envision Burt Reynolds growing his mustache to play the role of Hazel, chief bunny; Telly Savalas, who has gone into seclusion to learn how to move his ears to the tune of "Who Loves Ya' Bunny," playing General Woundwort, and Karl Malden, who, for the first time, has learned the value of having a nose that moves on its own will power, in the part of Bigwig, the tried and true soldier. No female leads have been selected, but whoever is chosen will have big brown eyes and an attractive tail. . . Hugh Hefner, who is both a person and a rabbit, is the director.

Surely Hollywood is passing hraka. Let's leave this book the way it is and let it stand on its own considerable powers.

*Watership Down* is a curious book. Any person who reads the novel will recognize the originality of the story and at the same time wonder how serious the author is, writing a book about bunny rabbits. The tendency might be to read the story only on the basis of this curiosity but past the first chapter or so, past the first chuckle and grin, it can be determined that not only is the author serious in his

subject but also skillful and a little sly in its telling.

*Watership Down* is not in fairyland where all things are mystical and good and therefore unbelievable. It is told in the real world where survival is determined by ingenuity, faith, and guts and where the enemies are defeated not because they are simply the bad guys but because they lack these elements which are essential to success. The rabbits of *Watership Down* are active and challenging, facing the world bravely and becoming a part of it rather than passively concentrating only on their survival as do the rabbits of other warrens. Adams presents this message in a concise and serious manner without being moralistic or overly optimistic. Success in *Watership Down* is possible but only if you can face problems squarely and keep the faith. A simple theme but one that seems oddly refreshing when told in this manner.

The plot of the novel is simple; a warren of rabbits is invaded by man and those who survive are forced to make the journey to *Watership Down*, another Warren, to rebuild their lives and find security and happiness. The dangers they encounter are numerous as they avoid or outwit the various threats to their efforts to re-locate. Their journey is heroic and exciting, humorous and real. Adams succeeds in making the reader sympathize with their needs to belong and to be secure and still admire their courage in defending themselves. In this manner the "creatures" move into strong characterizations that contain qualities admirable in any who can brave the dangers of their environment and win.

*Watership Down* is a strangely ironic in several respects, particularly for an American reader somewhat jaded by political intrigue, the success ethic, and leaders who have "visions" and peanuts. The characters in *Watership Down* follow their leaders eventual success because they know and feel the necessity of doing so, but also because they know their leaders are trustworthy and sharing a common goal with themselves. Adams' story acknowledges the necessity of having a leader, a doer and a giver, not a talker and a taker. This view of these furry knights enhances the effect of the story. There is that final gratification of a job well done and that those mostly responsible for its success did it unselfishly.

Richard Adams is a wise and stylish writer with a fine narrative skill that reflects a certain restraint but is never uncertain or clumsily. *Watership Down* is imaginative but remains believable to the extent that we can still acknowledge its truths and wit with respect to its unique characterizations. Its satire is light but meaningful; there is the feeling that Adams is winking with one eye while entertaining his readers with an unpretentious and challenging piece of work. It would be wrong to classify this novel as "heavy." It would be equally as wrong to see it only as an adventure story with no deeper intention than keeping someone entertained during commercials. Wear it in your hip pocket. The next time you see a checkered hunter equipped with shotgun and determination, hand him this book. It may save a life.



## STROLLER

Yesterday, I came across a visitor lurking on campus, who stared at me as if I were out of place. Suddenly, he startled me by asking "Is the campus offering summer classes anytime this summer?"

"Why yes," I said. "In fact classes are going on right now."

He looked at me with sudden amazement and doubt. "Oh come of it, I'm no fool," he replied, "anyone can see that this place is virtually deserted, except for the few high-schoolers who tear their way through the campus screaming at the top of their lungs to the den, to the tennis courts. Summer camps and no classes, what's this campus coming too?"

Seeing his doubt (I was the only person to be seen roaming about on my way to work) I replied, "Look mister, there really are classes, I have some cut-and-dried textbooks in my arms. No, no one in their right mind would carry these about if they didn't have to."

He seemed somewhat relieved, but only for a brief moment. Suddenly his face clouded. "Then

why is the campus so empty, are you the only person enrolled in classes? Even that sinister McCracken Hall doesn't seem to have any evil beings visiting," he said. Peace seemed to flow across him as the last statement, "Maybe we won't have a newspaper this summer," was uttered.

With this, I was fit to be tied with anger. "What are you doing here, peeking about like a spy or something? What's your name? Why are you so interested in the University?" These and various other questions came tumbling out of me in my rage.

He backed away and grew a little frightened at the tone of my voice and all the questions I threw at him. "Spying," he cried, "Oh no just observing." With that he reviled the answer to all my other questions. He really wasn't a visitor at all!

As I stood and gaped in awe, he said, "Maybe next summer we'll have pre-enrollment." With that, my vision caught a glimpse of our University hero and mascot (the man I had been talking to), Bobby Bearcat fleeing away from campus.

## RESPONSE

Dear Editor:

What is commencement? Commencement is the day when, or the ceremony at which, degrees or diplomas are conferred to graduates.

That being the case, there will be no commencement service at Northwest Missouri State University this spring. Seniors are scheduled to graduate on May 9, but in reality they will not do so.

There is no possible way they could do so because their final grades do not have to be turned in until later in the week (after graduation!) I see a great deal of "principle" being disregarded in this backwards approach to graduation.

In fact, this order of doing things reduces commencement to a senseless formality. Does it not seem unfair to you that many seniors will be required to return to class after commencement to complete final exams?

If you are an instructor or an administrator, take yourself back to your day of graduation, and place yourself in this situation. How would you have reacted?

Fellow seniors, when (if) you attend commencement services on May 9, it will not signify the end of a college career of which the majority of you have put much work into. If you were handed a diploma on that day, it would only be a "scrap of paper." As long as the final grades are not in, it could mean nothing else.

I sympathize with all seniors who much bow out in such a manner. Double standards in education continue because they are fostered by certain individuals who disregard student rights.

Don Weaner  
222A Dieterick

## MISSOURIAN

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